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DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT & BUDGET
LANSING

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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February Unemployment Rates Increase Slightly in Most of Michigan's Regional Labor Markets

Lansing – Seasonally unadjusted unemployment rates in February edged upward over the month in 13 of the state's 17 major labor market areas, according to the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget. Total employment increased in most regions over the month, while labor force levels advanced in all of Michigan's major labor market areas.

"The small jobless rate increases throughout most of the state in February mainly indicated the continued entry of unemployed individuals into Michigan's local labor markets," said Jason Palmer, director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information & Strategic Initiatives. "Both total employment and the number of unemployed rose in the majority of Michigan's local regions in February, which reflected a recent trend. Workforce levels were up in nearly all regional labor markets over the year."

From January to February, jobless rate increases ranged from 0.1 to 0.8 of a percentage point with a minor median advance of 0.2 of a percentage point. By far the largest over-the-month rate gains occurred in both the Northeast and Northwest Lower Michigan regions, with unemployment rate hikes of 0.8 and 0.6 of a percentage point respectively. Unemployment rates declined slightly over the month in the Lansing-East Lansing (-0.4), Detroit-Warren-Dearborn (-0.3), and Monroe (-0.2) Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs). The jobless rate in the Ann Arbor MSA was unchanged in February.

Unemployment Rates Fall Over Year

Since February 2015, jobless rates fell in all of the state's major labor markets. Over-the-year rate reductions ranged from -0.7 to -1.5 percentage points with a median decline of -1.1 percentage points. The largest unemployment rate decreases over this period were displayed in the Northeast and Northwest Lower Michigan regions along with the Muskegon MSA.

Total Employment Up Over Month, Year

From January to February, total employment rose in 15 regions and declined slightly in the Northeast and Northwest Lower Michigan regions. The most pronounced over-the-month gains were posted in the Lansing-East Lansing, Monroe, Ann Arbor, and Niles-Benton Harbor MSAs.

Since February 2015, total employment rose significantly in all 17 regions, recording a very robust 3.2 percent median advance. The largest percentage gains over this period were posted in the Monroe, Ann Arbor, Grand Rapids-Wyoming, and Kalamazoo-Portage MSAs.

Note: Labor force, employment, and unemployment data for 2011-2015 have been recently revised. Payroll job data by industry was revised for 2014 and 2015; and in some cases back to 1990. Estimates for January and February 2016 are not comparable to previously released data. For newly revised estimates, go to www.michigan.gov/lmi or call 313-456-3090.

Labor Force Levels Up Over Month, Year

From January to February, workforce levels rose in all 17 major regions in the state. Labor force level increases ranged from 0.4 to 1.7 percent in February with a median gain of 1.0 percent.

Since February 2015, labor force levels advanced in 15 areas, and declined slightly in the Jackson MSA. The workforce level in the Upper Peninsula was essentially unchanged over the year. Over-the-year increases ranged from 0.9 to 3.4 percent with a median gain of 1.9 percent.

Seasonal Gains in Government and Private Education Push February Payroll Jobs Upward

The monthly survey of employers indicated that seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs in Michigan increased by 25,000 or 0.6 percent in February to 4,247,000. February payroll job gains were highlighted by increases in government (+15,000), education and health services (+6,000), and professional and business services (+3,000). Jobs in trade, transportation and utilities posted a seasonal reduction in February of -4,000. The state's remaining major sectors recorded mostly minor changes over the month.

Within the government sector, jobs in state government education (+7,000), and local government education (+6,000) advanced seasonally due to the continued return of students to colleges, universities and local schools following the holiday break. Job gains in education and health services were primarily due to a seasonal increase in private education (+6,000).

From January to February, payroll jobs rose in 11 of the state's 14 metropolitan regions. Job gains in the 11 metro regions ranged from 0.2 to 2.1 percent with a moderate median advance of 0.6 percent. Payroll jobs declined slightly over the month in the Bay City and Flint MSAs, while jobs were essentially flat in the Saginaw MSA.

From February 2015 to February 2016, seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs rose statewide by 89,000 or 2.1 percent. Nearly all major sectors in the state posted job gains over this period, with increases in manufacturing (+17,000), professional and business services (+17,000), education and health services (+13,000), and leisure and hospitality services (+13,000) leading the way.

Since February 2015, payroll jobs rose in 12 of the 14 metropolitan regions of the state, with a median job gain of 2.1 percent. Payroll jobs were down over the year in the Jackson and Midland MSAs.

County Jobless Rates Up Over Month, Down Over Year

Fifty-nine of Michigan's 83 counties recorded mostly moderate unemployment rate increases in February, with a median hike of only 0.4 of a percentage point. Most of the larger over-the-month rate increases occurred in the state's northern areas. Rates declined slightly in 19 counties over the month, while the rates in five counties were unchanged.

Since February 2015, jobless rates fell in all 83 counties, with drops ranging from -0.6 to -3.0 percentage points and a median reduction of -1.2 percentage points.

*Note: Data in this release is **not seasonally adjusted**. As a result, employment and unemployment trends may differ from previously released Michigan seasonally adjusted data. A breakdown of seasonally unadjusted February workforce estimates for Michigan and its 17 major labor market areas follows, along with a listing of county jobless rates for February.*

Note to Editors: Please ensure that the source for state unemployment rates reads "Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget."

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	<u>Feb-15</u>	<u>Jan-16</u>	<u>Feb-16</u>	% change month	% change year
ANN ARBOR MSA (Washtenaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	189,500	192,800	196,000	1.7%	3.4%
Total Employment	182,600	187,300	190,300	1.6%	4.2%
Unemployment	6,900	5,500	5,700	3.6%	-17.4%
Rate (percent)	3.6	2.9	2.9		

Contact: Luke Bunge, DTMB Regional Economic Analyst (517) 335-3875

	<u>Feb-15</u>	<u>Jan-16</u>	<u>Feb-16</u>	% change month	% change year
BATTLE CREEK MSA (Calhoun County)					
Civilian Labor Force	64,500	64,700	65,400	1.1%	1.4%
Total Employment	60,900	61,800	62,400	1.0%	2.5%
Unemployment	3,600	2,900	3,000	3.4%	-16.7%
Rate (percent)	5.6	4.4	4.6		

Contact: Leonidas Murembya, DTMB Regional Economic Analyst (517) 841-5634

	<u>Feb-15</u>	<u>Jan-16</u>	<u>Feb-16</u>	% change month	% change year
BAY CITY MSA (Bay County)					
Civilian Labor Force	52,700	53,000	53,200	0.4%	0.9%
Total Employment	49,000	50,100	50,300	0.4%	2.7%
Unemployment	3,700	2,800	3,000	7.1%	-18.9%
Rate (percent)	6.9	5.3	5.6		

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	<u>Feb-15</u>	<u>Jan-16</u>	<u>Feb-16</u>	% change month	% change year
DETROIT-WARREN-DEARBORN MSA (Data in thousands) (Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Lapeer, Livingston, St. Clair counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	1,977	2,012	2,027	0.7%	2.5%
Total Employment	1,850	1,897	1,917	1.1%	3.6%
Unemployment	127	114	110	-3.5%	-13.4%
Rate (percent)	6.4	5.7	5.4		

Contact: Jim Rhein, DTMB Economic Analyst (313) 456-3095

	<u>Feb-15</u>	<u>Jan-16</u>	<u>Feb-16</u>	% change month	% change year
FLINT MSA (Genesee County)					
Civilian Labor Force	182,900	184,300	185,100	0.4%	1.2%
Total Employment	170,500	174,100	174,800	0.4%	2.5%
Unemployment	12,400	10,200	10,300	1.0%	-16.9%
Rate (percent)	6.8	5.5	5.6		

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	<u>Feb-15</u>	<u>Jan-16</u>	<u>Feb-16</u>	% change month	% change year
GRAND RAPIDS - WYOMING MSA					
(Barry, Kent, Montcalm, Ottawa counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	549,900	559,800	566,000	1.1%	2.9%
Total Employment	526,900	541,600	547,000	1.0%	3.8%
Unemployment	23,000	18,200	19,000	4.4%	-17.4%
Rate (percent)	4.2	3.2	3.4		

Contact: Michelle Wein, DTMB Regional Economic Analyst (517) 241-8272

	<u>Feb-15</u>	<u>Jan-16</u>	<u>Feb-16</u>	% change month	% change year
JACKSON MSA					
(Jackson County)					
Civilian Labor Force	73,200	72,300	72,900	0.8%	-0.4%
Total Employment	68,800	68,900	69,400	0.7%	0.9%
Unemployment	4,400	3,400	3,500	2.9%	-20.5%
Rate (percent)	6.0	4.7	4.9		

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KALAMAZOO - PORTAGE MSA					
(Kalamazoo and Van Buren counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	165,300	167,300	169,700	1.4%	2.7%
Total Employment	156,500	160,500	162,500	1.2%	3.8%
Unemployment	8,800	6,800	7,100	4.4%	-19.3%
Rate (percent)	5.3	4.1	4.2		

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	<u>Feb-15</u>	<u>Jan-16</u>	<u>Feb-16</u>	% change month	% change year
LANSING - EAST LANSING MSA					
(Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	244,700	245,700	249,400	1.5%	1.9%
Total Employment	232,700	235,700	240,200	1.9%	3.2%
Unemployment	11,900	10,100	9,300	-7.9%	-21.8%
Rate (percent)	4.9	4.1	3.7		

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	<u>Feb-15</u>	<u>Jan-16</u>	<u>Feb-16</u>	% change month	% change year
MIDLAND MSA					
(Midland County)					
Civilian Labor Force	41,500	41,700	42,000	0.7%	1.2%
Total Employment	39,200	39,800	40,000	0.5%	2.0%
Unemployment	2,300	1,900	2,000	5.3%	-13.0%
Rate (percent)	5.6	4.6	4.7		

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	<u>Feb-15</u>	<u>Jan-16</u>	<u>Feb-16</u>	% change month	% change year
MONROE MSA (Monroe County)					
Civilian Labor Force	76,100	77,400	78,700	1.7%	3.4%
Total Employment	72,300	74,200	75,600	1.9%	4.6%
Unemployment	3,800	3,200	3,200	0.0%	-15.8%
Rate (percent)	5.0	4.2	4.0		

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	<u>Feb-15</u>	<u>Jan-16</u>	<u>Feb-16</u>	% change month	% change year
MUSKEGON MSA (Muskegon County)					
Civilian Labor Force	77,500	77,900	78,700	1.0%	1.5%
Total Employment	72,500	74,100	74,700	0.8%	3.0%
Unemployment	5,000	3,800	4,000	5.3%	-20.0%
Rate (percent)	6.5	4.8	5.1		

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NILES - BENTON HARBOR MSA (Berrien County)					
Civilian Labor Force	72,600	73,300	74,500	1.6%	2.6%
Total Employment	68,300	69,700	70,800	1.6%	3.7%
Unemployment	4,300	3,500	3,700	5.7%	-14.0%
Rate (percent)	5.9	4.8	5.0		

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	<u>Feb-15</u>	<u>Jan-16</u>	<u>Feb-16</u>	% change month	% change year
SAGINAW MSA (Saginaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	88,600	90,200	90,800	0.7%	2.5%
Total Employment	82,900	85,600	86,000	0.5%	3.7%
Unemployment	5,800	4,700	4,900	4.3%	-15.5%
Rate (percent)	6.5	5.2	5.3		

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UPPER PENINSULA LMA (15 counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	142,700	140,700	142,700	1.4%	0.0%
Total Employment	130,900	131,300	132,600	1.0%	1.3%
Unemployment	11,800	9,400	10,000	6.4%	-15.3%
Rate (percent)	8.3	6.7	7.0		

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NORTHEAST LOWER MICHIGAN					
(Alcona, Alpena, Cheboygan, Crawford, Iosco, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Oscoda, Otsego, Presque Isle, Roscommon counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	81,000	81,300	81,800	0.6%	1.0%
Total Employment	72,200	74,300	74,100	-0.3%	2.6%
Unemployment	8,800	7,000	7,700	10.0%	-12.5%
Rate (percent)	10.9	8.6	9.4		

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NORTHWEST LOWER MICHIGAN					
(Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, Wexford counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	144,600	146,200	147,000	0.5%	1.7%
Total Employment	133,100	137,400	137,300	-0.1%	3.2%
Unemployment	11,500	8,800	9,800	11.4%	-14.8%
Rate (percent)	8.0	6.0	6.6		

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MICHIGAN (Data in thousands)					
Civilian Labor Force	4,714	4,769	4,815	1.0%	2.1%
Total Employment	4,427	4,527	4,574	1.0%	3.3%
Unemployment	286	242	242	0.0%	-15.4%
Rate (percent)	6.1	5.1	5.0		

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**MICHIGAN COUNTIES RANKED BY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
FEBRUARY 2016**

1	Washtenaw County	2.9	43	Wayne County	6.2
2	Ottawa County	3.1	44	Otsego County	6.4
3	Kent County	3.2	45	Van Buren County	6.4
4	Clinton County	3.4	46	Wexford County	6.4
5	Kalamazoo County	3.6	47	Alpena County	6.4
6	St. Joseph County	3.7	48	Charlevoix County	6.5
7	Eaton County	3.8	49	Tuscola County	6.8
8	Ingham County	3.8	50	St. Clair County	6.9
9	Barry County	4.0	51	Sanilac County	6.9
10	Monroe County	4.0	52	Mason County	6.9
11	Allegan County	4.1	53	Delta County	7.0
12	Oakland County	4.2	54	Luce County	7.1
13	Ionia County	4.2	55	Missaukee County	7.3
14	Livingston County	4.4	56	Gladwin County	7.4
15	Isabella County	4.4	57	Baraga County	7.7
16	Lenawee County	4.5	58	Iron County	7.7
17	Branch County	4.5	59	Lapeer County	7.7
18	Hillsdale County	4.6	60	Manistee County	7.8
19	Calhoun County	4.6	61	Emmet County	8.2
20	Cass County	4.7	62	Iosco County	8.2
21	Midland County	4.7	63	Clare County	8.3
22	Grand Traverse County	4.9	64	Lake County	8.3
23	Jackson County	4.9	65	Alcona County	8.4
24	Menominee County	5.0	66	Antrim County	8.4
25	Berrien County	5.0	67	Benzie County	8.4
26	Gratiot County	5.1	68	Keweenaw County	8.4
27	Muskegon County	5.1	69	Crawford County	8.5
28	Newaygo County	5.2	70	Ogemaw County	8.5
29	Dickinson County	5.3	71	Kalkaska County	8.6
30	Saginaw County	5.3	72	Ontonagon County	8.6
31	Shiawassee County	5.4	73	Oscoda County	8.6
32	Macomb County	5.5	74	Chippewa County	8.6
33	Montcalm County	5.6	75	Alger County	9.2
34	Bay County	5.6	76	Oceana County	9.5
35	Genesee County	5.6	77	Arenac County	10.1
36	Mecosta County	5.7	78	Roscommon County	10.1
37	Houghton County	5.8	79	Montmorency County	11.0
38	Huron County	5.8	80	Schoolcraft County	11.4
39	Marquette County	5.8	81	Presque Isle County	13.3
40	Gogebic County	5.9	82	Cheboygan County	16.2
41	Leelanau County	6.2	83	Mackinac County	19.7
42	Osceola County	6.2			

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